

January 24, 1949

To Members of the International
Olympic Committee:

You will recall that, commencing in the year 1945, the City of Minneapolis, through its Olympic Invitation committee, presented its invitation to the I.O.C. to be permitted to organize the first available summer Games in Minneapolis; that after the 1952 Games were definitely awarded to Helsinki at your meeting in Stockholm in June 1947, the invitation of Minneapolis was renewed for the 1956 Games.

We had, as you may remember, a small delegation at the I.O.C. meeting in Lausanne in September 1946 and a larger one at Stockholm. And we have at all times made it clear that our invitation has the enthusiastic and active backing of our state and city governments, of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, and of all the representative business, financial and civic groups of our city.

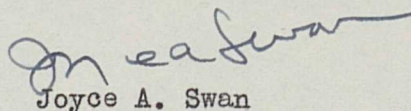
We are well aware that the U. S. Olympic committee has, by vote of its executive committee, endorsed the City of Detroit as the city in the United States most preferred by them for the next available Games. But knowing that the final choice of the site of the 1956 Games lies with your committee, and believing that our city has certain unique advantages which compare very favorably with those of the other great cities of the world who are bidding for the Games, we presume to mention again a few of these advantages, for your consideration.

1. We have an attractive city of one-half million inhabitants, with a summer climate ideally suited to sports of all kinds. Together with the adjoining city of St. Paul and surrounding suburbs, Minneapolis is part of a metropolitan area of over one million people, and hotel rooms in excess of 20,000 are available for visitors.
2. The buildings, athletic plant and all facilities of one of the great universities of the world, with 27,000 students at the present time, are available for the Games. These facilities include a fine stadium with a seating capacity at present of 65,000, which can and will be enlarged to 80,000 if the Games are awarded to us. Necessary indoor halls and arenas are available in profusion, including the University Field House with a seating capacity of over 15,000. Three swimming pools are available for practice at the University, and the Minneapolis Summer Festival Pool can be readily expanded for the competition.
3. One of the great rowing courses of the country is within one-half mile of the stadium, on the upper waters of the Mississippi river. There is first-class terrain for equestrian events in the country districts surrounding our city, and Lake Minnetonka, within fifteen miles of Minneapolis, is excellent for small boat yachting, with a yacht club continuously active since 1882.

4. The University housing facilities are so extensive that the entire athletic community of athletes can be pleasantly and conveniently housed and fed. A perfect Olympic village is thus ready-made for use.
5. The tradition and spirit of amateurism of our city and University are outstanding, and equal to any in the world. Professional sport is at a minimum in Minneapolis, and the great amateur sports of our University dominate the athletic activities of the city and state. Our people are conscious of this tradition, and the staff of the University and citizens of Minneapolis have had long and successful experience in organizing amateur sporting events on a large scale.
6. We have a group of citizens who can and will organize the financial backing of the Games to the extent necessary, and in addition we have the pledged cooperation of our city and state governments, and of our University officials, to assist us in every way possible.

We found at Stockholm that the advantages of our city met with considerable recognition from among your committee and we, therefore, respectfully request that you again consider Minneapolis in making your final decision. Our invitation for the 1956 Games still stands and, with your permission, we will have representatives at your meeting at Rome next May to press this invitation in person.

Sincerely,



Joyce A. Swan

Chairman, Minneapolis Olympic Invitation Committee

JAS:mar



GRAND HÔTEL
STOCKHOLM

TEL. "GRAND HÔTEL"
TELEGR. GRAND

Minneapolis

June 21, 1947

Mr. J! Sigfrid Edstrom
President
International Olympic Committee
Klarabergaten 21, Stockholm

Dear Mr. Edstrom,

The CIO having announced today its decision to award the 1952 Olympic games to Helsinki, Finland, the Olympic Invitation Committee of Minneapolis desires to extend to the CIO an invitation to award the Olympic games in 1956, the XVI Olympiad, to Minneapolis.

May we also express to you and the entire committee our thanks and appreciation for the many courtesies and splendid hospitality shown us during the past week.

Respectfully yours
Olympic Invitation Committee of
Minneapolis

Joyce A. Swan
F. L. Merrill,
Alfred Lindley



INTERNATIONAL
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COMMITTEE

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